ENGLISH TENSES



The Present Simple Tense

A self-study reference and practice booklet for all levels

I SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY WHAT ABOUT YOU?









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Preface:

This booklet is the first of a series entitled "English tenses". The series is intended for secondary school students and is Meant to provide an answer to any tense problem the student Encounters. The series also aims at the correction of specific Mistakes and the removal of particular difficulties students have when writing or speaking.

A feature of the present booklet is the provision of sample well graded Exercises to give the student practice on each point presented and explained. The explanatory matter has been made as concise and as simple as possible, And illustrative examples of each point dealt with, have been given. It is suitable both for work in class and for students working on their own.

The author: Djamel Dehmas
To my family,
To Mrs. Zehor Benarbia.
Thanks for all.





I) The Simple Present Tense

1/ USES :

A) The simple present tense is used to describe general characteristics of persons, objects or animals which do not change.

Examples :

1- Persons :

a) Physical description :

e.g. - Imene **is** Tall.
She **has** a dark complexion.
- Sarah **has** a fair complexion.
She **has** brown eyes.



b) Moral description :

e.g. - Mimi **is** a helpful person.
She **likes** helping the others.
- Kouki **is** courageous.
- Radia **is** cheerful.
She **likes** telling funny stories.



2- Objects :

e.g. - This table **is** rectangular. It **is** made of wood.
- The computers **are** useful/ necessary.
- These books **are** interesting.





3. Animals:



- Lions **are** dangerous animals.
- Cats **are** hairy.
- Tigers **live** in the wilderness.

B) The simple present tense is also used for habitual, permanent or repeated actions.

Frequency adverbs and phrases are generally used with the simple present tense to refer to such action.

1- Referring to habitual, permanent or repeated actions without using frequency adverbs or adverbs phrases



- Imene **goes** to school on foot.
- She **practises** sport.
- Little children **cry** when they hurt themselves.

2- Referring to habitual, permanent or repeated actions using frequency adverbs

- Sarah always **brushes** her teeth in the morning.
- We something **make** mistakes.
- Shops never **open** at night in Algiers.



SARAH

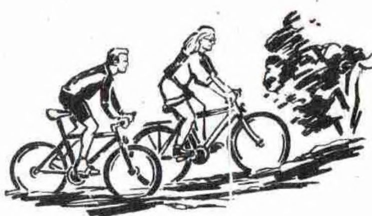


The simple present tense is often used with the following adverbs
Always , generally, regularly, seldom, rarely, often, sometimes, never, etc.
These frequency adverbs are classified from the most to the least frequent ones as follow:

+	Always	→ at all time, on all occasions.
▪	Generally / Regularly	→ at regular times, on most occasions
▪	Often / Frequently / Usually	→ at many times, on every occasion.
▪	Sometimes / From time to time / Occasionally	→ not regular, on some occasions
▪	Rarely / Seldom*	→ not often, on rare occasions.
−	Never	→ not at any time, on no occasion.

- They always **spend** their holidays in Spain.
- My grand father regularly **takes** his medicines three times a day.
- Radia usually **makes** her bed before having breakfast.
- The pupils often **borrow** books from the school library.
- I sometimes **rely** on others to solve my problems.
- She rarely **asks** for help.
- I never **tell** lies.





3- Referring to habitual, permanent or repeated actions using adverbial phrases

The simple present tense is also used with adverbial phrases such as:
every morning, every Christmas, once a week, on week-ends, on Fridays, etc.

- **On Thursdays**, we **spend** the evening playing cards.
- They give me a lift **every morning**.
- They city council **organises** this competition **twice a year**.



C) The simple present tense is also used for general and permanent truths.

- The sun **rises** in the east.
- There **are** 60 minutes in one hour.
- Water **boils** at 100° Celsius.



The sun rises in the east.

II – FORMS

A) The frequency adverbs.

1- without frequency adverbs.

* For I, You, We, they:

Subject + Stem(the infinitive without to) + Complement

- I **practise** sport.
- We **speak** English fluently.
- They **study** English.

- For **He, She, It** :

Subject + Stem + (-s/ -es) + Complement

- Sarah **work** shard to save up and buy a car.
- Mimi **brush** esher shoes every morning.
- A baby **cri** eswhen it is hungry.





2- with frequency adverbs.

* For **I, you, We, They:**

Subject + frequency adverb + Stem + Complement

- I **always check** my school bag before going to school.
- We **generally ask** for advice before taking any decision.
- They **often call** us especially when they are in trouble.

For He, She, It

Subject + frequency adverb + Stem + (" s" / " es ") + Complement

- Mimi **always** thanks me when I give her a present.
- He **usually** drives to his office in order not to be late.
- She **never** uses my computer without my permission.

3- When to add "s" or "es"

a) The "s" is added to consonant ending verbs; as in the following examples.

I eat He eat s	I travel He travel s	I climb He climb s	I swim He swim s
I condemn He condemn s	I work He work s	I sing He sing s	I add He add s ,etc.

b) The "es" is added to verbs ending in: o, x; ss, sh, ch.

I go	I relax	I kiss	I wash	I teach
He go es	He relax es	He kiss es	He wash es	He teach es



I try	I hurry	I cry	I carry
He tries	He hurries	He cries	He carries

d) The "s" is added to verbs ending in "y" following a vowel.

I play	I say	I buy	I pay	I obey
He plays	He says	He buys	He pays	He obeys



The "S" is pronounced:

a) /Iz/ after sh, tch, S, g, dg, Z
/ʃ/ /tʃ/ /s/ /ʒ/ /dʒ/ /z/

: Pushes - Reaches - Houses - Garages - Bridges - Quizzes - Teases.

b) /Z/ after R, L, G, Y, N, EE, EA, V, M, TH, D.

: Bears - Bottles - Dogs- Eyes- Jon's - Betty's- Lives – Swims – Clothes - Sends
Trains - Sees
Seas

c) /S/ after TH /θ/, T, P, F, K.

: Baths – Boots - Helps - Roofs - Thinks,
Months Laughs - Works



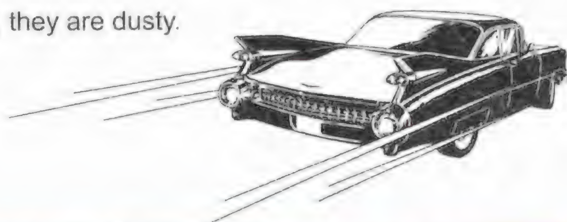
B) The Negative From:

1 – without frequency adverbs.

Subject + do (or does) + not + Stem + complement

- Bad students **do not** / **or don't** work hard.
- She **does not/ or doesn't** answer any question when she **does not** / **or doesn't** understand.
- We **do not** / **or don't** smoke because it is bad for our heath.
- With the verb "**to be**", the auxiliary (**do/does**) is not needed to form the negative.

- Driving a car **is not** risky but driving fast is.
- **I am not** angry, I am hungry.
- Your shoes **are not** very clean, they are dusty.



2- With frequency adverbs.

Subject + do (or does) + not + frequency adverbs + Stem + complement

- I do not always find solutions to my problems.
- She does not often speak to strangers.
- They do not usually go out for dinner.



C) The Interrogative From:
1 - With frequency adverbs.

Do (or Does) + Subject + Stem + complement +?

- Why **do** you **ask** such a question?
- **Does** she **speak** any foreign language?
- How **do** we **pronounce** this word?



- With the verb "**to be**", the auxiliary (**do/does**) is not needed to form the interrogative
- The pupils are noisy .**Are they** alone?
- She is sleepy. **Is she** ill?
- Your parents are angry with me. **Am** I wrong?

2- With frequency adverbs.

Do (or Does) + Subject + frequency adverbs + Stem + complement

- How **do** you generally **react** to such words?
- Why **does** she always **wear** such glasses?
- **Do** they sometimes **help** you organise your work?



D) The Interro-Negative From:
1 - With frequency adverbs.

Don't (or Doesn't) + Subject + Stem + complement +?

- **Don't** I **do** my best to help you?
- **Doesn't** he **spend** his free time working?
- **Doesn't** your friend Sarah **know** how to get there?

The contracted from of the auxiliary do + not, i. e: don't & doesn't is frequent and Useful in the interro-negative form than the ordinary one (do not & does not).



2- With frequency adverbs.

Don't (or doesn't) + Subject + frequency adverbs + Stem + complement

Examples :

- **Don't** they always **let** you alone at home?
- **Doesn't** she often **ask** you to lend her you car?
- **Don't** you sometimes **feel** bored?

NB: With the verbs "to be" the auxiliary do / does in not needed

- **Isn't** he courageous?
- **Aren't** they too expensive?
- **Isn't** she lucky?

III – PRACTICE

A- Uses

Exercise one:

A – Read the following sentences carefully.

1) That man has a gruff voice.
2) Water is the source of life.
3) She never forgets to turn off the gas before going to bed.
4) All the pupils in our school learn English.
5) We see with our eyes, hear with our ears and smell with our nose.
6) Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.
7) The telephone is a necessity in the modern world.
8) Jet aeroplanes fly very fast.
9) There are some birds that migrate every year.
10) There are sixty minutes in an hour.
11) Faïza wakes up early every morning.
12) They go to the stadium once a week.

B – Now, classify them according to the use of the simple present tense referred to (see uses),

Some sentences have already been classified. Do the same with the remaining ones.



Description of general Characteristics	Habitual, permanent or Repeated actions	General truth
That man has a gruff voice.	there are some bird that migrate every year	There are sixty minutes in an hour
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

B – FORMS

Exercise one: **(the affirmative form with: I/ You / We / They)**

Put the verbs between brackets in the correct form of the present tense. Do as in the Following example.

- Tailors (**to make)** suits.
- Tailors **make** suits

1- Most people (**to prefer**) watching good films on TV rather than reading books.
2- Architects (**to make**) the plans of buildings.
3- My sister and I (**to take**) the five o'clock bus.
4- You (**to be**) my best friend.
5- We (**to go**) to the swimming pool twice a week.
6- Every summer our neighbours (**to paint**) their flat.
7- Fishermen often (**to go**) to sea .
8- I never (**to spend**) my summer holidays in Algeria.
9- They (**to wish**) to speak to you.
10- Honest citizens (**to obey**) the laws of their country.
11- Greengrocers (**to sell**) vegetables.
12- You still (**to make**) spelling mistakes when you (**to write**). Pay attention!



Exercise two: **(the affirmative form with: He, She, It)**

Put the verbs between brackets in the correct form of the present tense. Do as in the Following example.

- Radia **(to brush)** her teeth three times a day.
- Radia brushes her teeth three times a day.

1 – The old man still (**to do**) a lot of work every day.
2 – The sun always (**to shine**) in the Sahara.
3 – That clever fisherman (**to catch**) a lot of fish every day.
4- The old astronomer (**to gaze**) at the stars in wonder every day.
5- It (**to rain**) in winter.
6- A good citizen (**to obey**) the laws of his country.
7- That fat man (**to eat**) too much bread.
8- He never (**to miss**) his classes.
9- Sarah sometimes (**to sing**) in English.
10- A scout boy (**to know**) what to do in such a situation.
11- Mimi (**to wish**) to attend one of these concerts.
12- This pupil always (**try**) to do his homework alone.

Exercise three: **(the affirmative form with: He, She, It adding "s"or "es")**

Rewrite the following sentences in the third person singular, as done in the followingExample.

- **I use a pen to write.**
- **He uses a pen to write.**

1.I mix the ingredients together.
She..
2.They kiss their mother.
She..
3.I always carry an umbrella.
She.......................................

4.We sometimes miss the bus.
He..



5.They usually watch T.V in the evening.
He..
6.We rely on you.
She..
7.They do their exercises every day.
He..
8. They wish to speak to you.
He..
9. They sometimes fly to Oran.
He..
10. They dress well on Thursdays.
He..

Exercise four: **(the negative from with all persons)**

All the following sentences are wrong. To get right ones put them in the negative from.
Read the following example carefully and do the same

- Sarah likes reading funny books.
- Sarah doesn't like reading funny books.

1- My friend Hamid **is** a grocer.
2- Imene **goes** to school.
3- These flowers **smell** nice.
4- The sun **rises** in the west.
5- Our team **wins** every match.
6- Architects **keep** bees.
7- She **believes** all my stories.
8- She **is** a lawyer.
9- Vegetarians **eat** meat.
10- Bees **make** milk.
11- He **knows** the answer.
12- She **plays** chess very well.



Exercise five: **(the interrogative from with all persons)**

Insert the subject and verb in the interrogative from.
Read the following example carefully and do the same.

- What (foreign languages - you – to speak)
- What foreign languages do you speak?

1. Where (your sister – **to live**)?
2. At what time (you – **to have**) your breakfast?
3. (Your friend – to sell) computers?
4. Which of these books (you – **to want**)?
5. How (these machines – **to work**)?
6. What (he – generally – **to do**) in the morning?
7. How (she – **to spend**) her week-ends?
8. Which of these colours (you – **to prefer**)?
9. (You – **to believe**) his stories?
10. (He – **to speak**) French?
11. (A secretary – **to write**) books?
12. (teachers- **to correct**) papers at the end of every term?

Exercise six: **(The interro – negative from with all persons)**

Rewrite the first sentence using the word or phrase between brackets instead of the one underlined.
Read the example carefully and do the same.

- I often go the theatre **Alone**. (sister)
- Don't you go the theatre with your sister?

1-That plant flowers **every year**. (only once every 2 years)
2-They live in **Australia**. (Canada).
3-He **rarely** pays his debts. (Always).
4-They usually **go back** home for lunch. (go to the school refectory)
5-They often listen to pop songs (**folk songs**)
6-She is a nurse. (**doctor**)
7-They are sad to leave the country. (**happy**)
8-She practises hand ball. (**tennis**)



9- I always tell you **to tell the truth**. (Not to tell lies).
10- You help me whenever I am in trouble. (Let me down).
11- He is always the **first one** to answer the questions. (Last one).
12- She is an **average pupil**. (the best pupil)

IV 6 Check what you've learnt.

Exercise one: Put the verbs between in the correct from of the present tense.

1-The planets (to revolve) r ound the sun.
2-(He/ always / to think) before he speaks?
3-She (always /not to tell) the truth
4-I (not to know) who that man is.
5-(You /to enjoy) your stay in our hotel?
6-A secretary (to write) letters, (to answer) the telephone and (meet) people.
7-Teacher (not to work) in hospitals, but in schools. They (to help) their students to learn.
8- (He / not / to like) listening to pop songs?
9- What (he / to do) on his days off?
10-Someone who (to translate) from one language to another (to be) a translator.
11- Why (you / not help) me?

Exercise two: Put the verbs between in the correct from of the present tense.

IMENE

Imene (be) a young Algerian school girl. She (be) nineteen years old. She (to have) brown eyes and long fair hair. She (to have) two sisters Sarah and Radia. She (to love) them and (to like) playing with them. Her parents (to be) teachers. They both (to teach) English.
Every week end, she (to go) with her parents and sisters to the country – side especially When the weather (to be) fine. In winter when it (to be) too cold to go out , they all (to stay) in and (to watch) TV.
Imene never (to forget) her sisters' birthday. She (to be) thoughtful. She (not to like) Waking up early, especially at week ends. Imene and her sisters (to remain) in bed until 9:30. They (to share) the same room. When she (to get up), she (to kiss) her sisters and (to help) them get dressed. Then, they all go to the dining room for breakfast. On Fridays, Imene ,Sarah ,Radia and their parents (to spend) the whole day in the country side. Imene (to be) very happy and (to say) this (to relax) her. On week days, she (not always/ to have) breakfast with her sisters. She often (to leave) home before they (to wake up). However, she never (to forget) to bring them some sweets when she (to get) back home. (Imene / not to be) a lovely sister?



Exercise three: **Read the following incomplete dialogue carefully. Imagine What << A >> says and try to complete it using the appropriate From of the present tense.**

A:...?

B: Sungeons work in hospitals

A:...?

B: Yes, they always work in hospitals. Do you know what they exactly do?

A: Yes certainly. They...

B: what? Only operate on people! Certainly not!

A: Well , after the operation they...................................

B: Why sometimes? Prescribing medicines is part of their job. What about watching their patients until they recover?

A: But..

B: No, it is not the role of nurses only.

A: Oh I see, they not only.............,............but...............................as well

B: Yes, examining patients, operating on them when necessary and taking care of them is all that is expected from a surgeon.



V – KEY TO EXERCISES

Part one: practice

A – Used

Description of general characteristics	Habitual, permanent or Repeated action	General truth
- That man has a gruff voice. - All the pupils in our school Leam English. -The telephone is a necessity in the modem world - Jet aeroplanes fly very fast.	- There are some birds that Migrate every year. - She never forgets to turn off The gas. - They go to the stadium once a week. - Faïza wakes up early every Morning.	- There are sixty minutes in an hour - Water is the source of life. - We see with our eyes, hear With our ears and smell with our nose. - Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.

B – Forms

Exercise one: 1 – prefer 2 – make 3- Take 4- are 5- go 6- Paint; 7- go 8- spend 9-wish 10-obey 11-sell 12- make ; write.

Exercise two: 1- does 2-shines 3- catches 4-gazes 5- rains 6- obeys 7- eats 8- misses 9- sings 10- knows 11- wishes 12- tries

Exercise three: 1- Mixes 2- Kisses 3- Carries 4-Misses 5- Watches 6- Relies 7- Does 8-Wshes 9- Files 10- Dresses.

Exercise four: is not - does not go – do not smell – doesn't rise – doesn't win – do not keep – does not believe – is not – do not eat – do not make – doesn't know – doesn't play.



Exercise five:

1- Where does your sister. Live?
2- At what time do you have your breakfast?
3- Does your friend sell computers?
4- Which of these books do you want?
5- How do these machines work?
6- What does he generally do in the morning?
7- How does she spend her week-ends?
8- Which of these colours do you prefer?
9- Do you believe his stories?
10- Does he speak French?
11- Does a secretary write books?
12- Do teachers correct papers at the end of every term?

Exercise six:

1- Doesn't that plant fower only once every two (2) years?
2- Don't they live in Canada?
3- Doesn't he always pay his debts?
4- Don't they usually go to school refectory for lunch?
5- Don't they often listen to Folk songs?
6- Isn't she a doctor?
7- Aren't they happy to leave the country?
8- Doesn't she practise tennis?
9- Don't I always tell you not to tell lies?
10- Don't you let me down whenever I am in trouble?
11- Isn't she always the last one to answer the questions?
12- Isn't she the best pupil?



Part Two: Check what you've learnt.

Exercise one:

1- Revolve 2- Does he always think....? 3 - Doesn't always tell; 4- do not know; 5- Do you enjoy your stay....? ; 6- Writes, answers, meets; 7- do not work, help; 8- Doesn't he like listening.....?. 9- What does he do? 10- doesn't often drink, 11- Translates; is 12- why don't you help me.....?

Exercise two:

IMENE

Is- is- has - has- loves – likes- are - teach- goes- is -is- stay- watch- forgets- is- doesn't like- remain – share- gets up-kisses- helps- spend- is – says- relaxes- doesn't' always have leaves - wake up – forgets- isn't Imene.

Exercise three:

A: where do surgeons work?
B: surgeons work in hospitals.

A: do they always work in hospitals?
B: yes, they always work in hospitals

A: yes certainly , they operate on people
B: what? Only operate on people certainly not!

A: well after the operation, they sometimes prescribe medicines.
B: why sometimes? Prescribing medicines is part of their job. What about watching their Patients until they recover?

A: but watching patients (this) is the role of nurses.
B: No, it is not the role of nurses only

A: Oh I see, they not only examine patients, operate on them but take care of as well.
B: Yes, examining patients, operating on them when necessary and taking care of them is all that is expected from a surgeon.



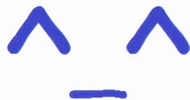
أخي / أختي

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بالخير و المغفرة و النجاح

hard_equation



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